MI | Skills Development Centre ▶▶
...Transforming Lives

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

www.micomputsolutions.co.uk

Welcome to our newsletter!

In this newsletter, you can learn how to budget for the holidays, read our inspiring learner spotlight, learn about our Investors in People Gold Accreditation, holiday closures and much more!
Read below!

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How To Budget For The Holidays

The holidays are coming and we know how joyful and also stressful they can be. Budgeting your money effectively for the holidays will give you more control and give you more time to enjoy the season.

Here are some steps to help you get started:

Step 1. Know Your Numbers

You need to know exactly how much money you have and how much you will have to spend.

- **Income:** How much money will you receive before the end of the year? Include any wages from a job or benefits.
- **Fixed Costs:** These are non-negotiable bills, such as rent, utilities, phone and travel.
- **Savings:** If you put any money aside for savings, take note of how much.

Now subtract the fixed costs and savings from the income to know how much you have left.

The amount you have left over is the total amount you have to spend on food and gifts.

Step 2. Set Spending Limits

Now that we know your leftover amount, it is time to decide how much you are going to spend in each category. This is where your division skills come in handy!

- **Food:** Set a limit for how much you will spend on food (don't forget to include food for parties or special treats). Think of how many people you will have over and will be cooking for.
- **Gifts:** How many people will you buy gifts for? How much do you want to spend per person?
- **Social Life and Transport:** Are you going to need to travel somewhere or attend any parties? If so, make sure you put some of the leftover money in this category.
- **New Year:** Don't forget to include any plans for New Year celebrations and its expenses.
- **Look for Deals:** Sales, vouchers and charity shops can help you save money.

Use your digital skills and create a spreadsheet to calculate how much money you have spent and how much you have left over every time you buy something.

Step 3. Plan For The New Year

Practice the new skills in the upcoming year.

- **Review December's Spending:** Think about what worked and what could be improved.
- **Plan for January Bills:** Utilities, travel and credit payments tend to increase in the new year.
- **Think of Your Subscription:** Are you paying for streaming services or apps that you don't use? Cancel or pause them to save money in the quieter months.
- **Build a Buffer:** Start putting aside £2–£5 a week or even £5-£15 a month for a rainy day. This will help you build good habits.

Budgeting is about helping you to feel financially free. So use your numeracy skills to manage your money, which in turn will make you feel more in control, give you more confidence and make you feel much happier.

Learner Spotlight - *Umar Al Basha*

Functional Skills English Level 2 and Maths Level 1 learner

Umar, one of our Functional Skills learners, came to the UK from Palestine 2 years ago in search of better opportunities. He hopes to become a manager at his job in the future, but at the moment, he is working as a front-of-house after progressing from the Food and Beverage section.

Before studying at MI, Umar's biggest fear was that he would find learning English really hard as it wasn't his native language, but while on the course, he realised that all the other learners were also in the same position - so they were all learning together.

Learn more about his story in the interview below:

Q: 1. Umar, can you tell us what courses you are doing at the moment?

A: I'm currently doing Functional Skills Maths L1, but recently I've completed Functional Skills English L2.

Q: 2. Between English and maths, which subject did you enjoy learning the most?

A: I enjoyed doing FS English the most, as I used the opportunity to improve my language skills,

including my speaking and my writing.

Q: 3. I think that makes perfect sense as it helps you communicate with others much more confidently. Looking back, can you tell me what made you decide to do a course and why did you choose MI?

A: When I first arrived, I didn't know that there were free courses that I could do to develop myself. I wanted to do the courses so that I could go to University for further studies, or do an apprenticeship to develop my skills and experience, so the job centre referred me to MI

Q: 4. Now that you are here, can you tell us what you enjoy most about learning at our centre?

A: I enjoy the fact that I can save time as the courses are short and the teachers, especially Sonya & Muhammad, are very supportive.

Q: 5. Muhammad and Sonya are great, I agree. And what has been the most challenging and the most rewarding part of your learner journey?

A: My biggest challenge was integrating into the UK, as I had no family or friends here. The most rewarding part was finding MI and getting to socialise with a diverse range of people.

Q: 6. I am so happy that MI helped you meet others. Umar, tell me, do you have any advice to give to other learners?

A: People think that Education is not worth it, but after experiencing not being in education for a few years, I realised how important it is, especially as employers are looking for qualifications these days. If I took University seriously in the past, I might have been on a different path.

Q: 7. It is never too late and I am glad that you are now working towards your goals. I just have one last question for you: What is your favourite motivational/inspiring quote?

A: My favourite quote is "*The steps you take don't have to be big, but it should lead you in the right direction.*"

Thank you so much, Umar, for taking your time to have this interview with us. We wish you a very successful journey as a learner and that you will achieve all your dreams.

MI ComputSolutions Retains Investors in People Gold Accreditation

London, November 2025

MI ComputSolutions, trading as **MI Skills Development Centre**, has been awarded the Investors in **People (IIP) Gold Accreditation**, reaffirming its excellence in leadership, staff development, and community impact.

The Gold standard places MI among the top-performing organisations nationally, recognised for its outstanding people practices and inclusive workplace culture.

The assessment found that MI **outperformed both the IIP and education sector** averages across all nine indicators, highlighting exceptional strengths in Living the Organisation's Values, Empowering People, Continuous Improvement, and Creating Sustainable Success.

"MI can be incredibly proud of this outcome. The organisation demonstrates unwavering commitment to its people, learners and communities, with clear alignment between strategy, leadership and staff purpose."

— Emma Johnson, IIP Practitioner 2025

Bola Sobowale, Founder & CEO, said:

"This achievement celebrates the dedication of our entire team. Our people are at the heart of everything we do — their passion and professionalism make MI an inspiring place to work and learn. Retaining Gold reflects our continued commitment to empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and transforming lives through learning."

For 20 years, MI ComputSolutions has delivered training and employability programmes across London, working with local authorities, employers, and community partners to support inclusive growth and lifelong learning.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Every year, on the 3rd of December, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated and recognised worldwide.

This day aims to raise awareness, but also to promote understanding, stand for inclusion and celebrate the achievements of people with

disabilities. In addition, it's a reminder that accessibility is a necessity in every aspect of our daily lives, including education and the workplace.

Below are some ways in which we can support inclusiveness:

- Use respectful and positive language.
- Ask before helping and never assume someone needs assistance. For example, you can ask: "How can I best support you?"
- Make learning spaces welcoming and accessible.
- Challenge stereotypes; everyone deserves equal opportunity.
- Focus on the person's unique talents and abilities and not on their perceived limitations
- Always put the person before the condition by using person-first language (e.g., "a person with a disability," not "the disabled person").
- Use clear, simple language in documents, and make sure all online content works with screen readers (digital accessibility).
- Respect their privacy by not asking intrusive questions about a person's condition or disability
- Promote flexible working, like flexible hours or specialised equipment to enable full participation.
- Apply inclusive design principles in physical spaces and digital tools so they are usable by the widest possible audience.
- Treat every individual with dignity and respect, recognising their independence and right to choose.

An inclusive society benefits all of us, regardless of our abilities or disabilities, therefore, the more we become aware and inclusive, the more accessible the world will be.

Learn More

Disability Confident Employer Certification

We are very honoured to announce that we, MI Skills Development Centre, have now been certified as a Disability Confident Employer.

SIA Roles: Key Responsibilities During the Festive Period

Security Industry Authority (SIA) is one of the most in-demand jobs in London and one of the courses we are proud to offer. This career path plays an important role in the safety of all, and during this festive period, as we know, one of the busiest of the year, even more so.

Here are some of the key responsibilities you should have during this period, whether you have already achieved the qualification, are studying for one or are considering it as a career:

Retail Security (Shops & Supermarkets)

- **Crowd Control:** Manage the flow of shoppers by monitoring entry, exit points and queues, as this will help prevent accidents and crush injuries.
- **Preventing Theft:** Sadly, theft increases during the holidays; therefore, you must be highly observant and follow all procedures for detaining shoplifters politely and safely.
- **Customer Service:** Your English communication skills are vital here, especially as the security staff are often the first point of

contact for lost children or shoppers needing help or directions.

- **Emergency Procedures:** Unfortunately, there are times when accidents happen and during this time you must support and guide customers through the emergency exits and procedures safely.

Door Supervisors (Nightlife & Events)

- **Entry Management:** Long waits can lead to frustration and conflict; so, you must check IDs quickly and fairly when managing queues.
- **Conflict De-escalation:** Alcohol increases the risk of arguments. Use your training in de-escalation techniques as a tool to maintain a calm, safe environment inside and outside the venue.
- **Vigilance:** Be attentive and watch for signs of intoxication, drug use, and/or aggressive behaviour before it becomes a risk to others

Remember, your professionalism is vital in keeping public spaces safe and enjoyable, so it is crucial that you approach every interaction with courtesy and politeness and that you always stay in contact with your team and supervisors.
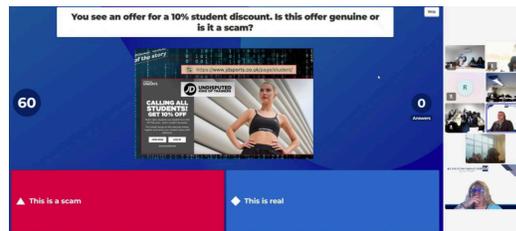
BBC Scam Safe Week Quiz

BBC Scam Safe Week happens every year, from the 22nd to the 28th of November, across all of the BBC's platforms (TV, radio and online). This series of programs aims to inform viewers about various types of scams. They do this by providing practical advice on identifying and avoiding common scams, information on fraud prevention and raising awareness about the impact of scams.

At MI we joined in the event by holding a quiz with our learners using the Kahoot and Teams platforms, which was hosted by our staff members: Michael Davies and Tara Roudiani. Five of our classes from our centres in Brixton and Deptford participated: Nadia's ESOL class, Ruchi and Muhammad's maths classes and James and Azzad's English classes.

The learners were tested on a variety of questions related to emails, post mail, text messages, online promotions and vouchers to try and decipher which ones were real or scams.

The quiz winner was tutor Azzad's English class - T100 - who received a box of Celebrations, but as we have no losers, all the classes shared a box of Heroes.

Learn More

Upcoming Courses

We are approaching the end of the year, but you still have time to enrol in one of our courses starting this December.

Don't wait until the new year to transform your life. **START NOW!**

Check the list of our upcoming courses and their start dates, and register below:

Vocational

Introduction to Care (Health and Social Care)
Start Date: 02/12/2025
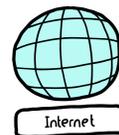
English

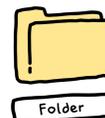Green Skills for ESOL
Start Date: 03/12/25

Welcome to English (ESOL)
Start Date: 08/12/25

I.C.T.

Get Connected
Start Date: 10/12/25

Enrol Now!

MI's Holiday Closure Dates

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

Closed 24th December 2025

Reopening 5th January 2026

Refer a Friend

And get a £30 bonus

If you have a friend that would benefit from doing a course with us, you can easily refer them using the form below.

As a reward you will get a £30 voucher when they successfully complete a course with us.

Referral Form

December Diversity & Inclusion Calendar

World Aids Day - 1st December

World AIDS Day takes place on 1 December each year. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day. https://www.worldaidsday.org/

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - 2nd December

The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict https://www.un.org/en/observances/slavery-abolition-day

International Day for Persons with Disabilities - 3rd December Approximately 1 in 6 people has a disability and/or learning difficulty. The International Day for Persons with Disabilities represents a united means of tackling disability equality on an international platform. A disability is defined as a "physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term effect on the ability to carry out day-to-day activities". https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-of-persons-with-disabilities

International Volunteers Day - 5th December International Volunteer Day is on December 5 annually. It's a day that recognizes the efforts of volunteers in transforming their societies, economies, and environment. On this day, members of the public focus on issues of concern in their communities. The goal is not just to get others to volunteer for one day but to change people's mindsets, attitudes, and behaviours so they become agents of change and work as partners to build a better world. In this world, sustainable human development and a spirit of equity underpin all interactions between one another. https://nationaltoday.com/international-volunteer-day/

Human Rights Day - 10th December Will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Declaration, a milestone celebration called Human Rights 75 (HR 75). Human Rights Day will capture all the moments from this year's commemoration and seeks to increase knowledge on the universality and indivisibility of human rights, especially among young people, inspire people to create a movement of shared humanity while empowering them to fight for their rights and take action. https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/human-rights-day/